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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the statements issued on 17 January 1991 by the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and by the Federal Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for these statements to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Darko SILOVIC
Ambassador

Annex I

Statement issued at Belgrade on 17 January 1991 by the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Dr. Borisav Jovic, regarding the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf

It is with great disappointment that we must recognize the failure of the efforts undertaken so far by the whole international community to attain a peaceful and political solution and to avoid the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, which unfortunately commenced last night.

Our country, as the current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, did its utmost so that this conflict might be resolved by peaceful means. Until the last moment, we nurtured hope that reason would prevail and that the use of force could be avoided.

Yugoslavia has always founded its international activities on the unyielding position that interference in internal affairs, aggression and occupation cannot be a means of resolving international disputes. This is unacceptable, particularly at this time when the world is on the brink of a new era of peace and co-operation without confrontation, which in the decades behind us was a permanent threat to world peace and security.

Although the armed conflict that we all endeavoured to avoid is under way, it is still not too late to stop it so as to prevent further destruction and new casualties.

That is the reason that even in this hour of great danger we once again appeal to President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership to comply with the decisions of the United Nations and urgently to commence the withdrawal from Kuwait, the occupation and annexation of which brought about these tragic developments. At this juncture it is the only way of preventing the further escalation of this catastrophe which alas has begun.

The continuation of the war gravely affects all States of the world community in all economic, political and other aspects and therefore presents a real peril to democratic developments in international relations. It is indeed in the interest of all that this situation should be overcome as soon as possible.

Annex II

Statement by the Federal Executive Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia relating to the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf

As a country committed to peace and to the principles of humanity, democracy and international law of the Charter of the United Nations as well as to the policy of non-alignment, Yugoslavia is deeply saddened by the outbreak of war in the Gulf, with its threat of tragic losses of human life and grave consequences.

Yugoslavia, as the current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and in close co-operation with the non-aligned and other countries, has done its utmost to help bring about a political and peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

Even after the deadline set by the Security Council in its resolution 678 (1990) has elapsed, exactly eight hours before the outbreak of war, we made yet another appeal for peace and reason.

To that effect we primarily urged President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership to act in concert with the principles of law and peace, to withdraw from Kuwait and thus to respond to the expectations of the entire international community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in particular.

Now that the war has begun and the first casualties have been inflicted, we still believe that no efforts should be spared in order to restore peace as soon as possible. The Iraqi compliance with the Security Council resolution 660 (1990) - i.e., the withdrawal from Kuwait - would create conditions to bring the hostilities to conclusion, to avoid further losses and to address peacefully this crisis and the problems of the entire region, in accordance with the principles of the policy of non-alignment and the Charter.

Yugoslavia will continue to endeavour along these lines, in close co-operation with all international factors, the non-aligned countries, the permanent and other members of the Security Council and particularly with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.